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**Thirteenth Report**

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF  
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

(This report covers the week from  
11 May through 17 May 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the  
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

**DIA review(s) completed.**

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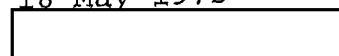
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18 May 1973



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18 May 1973

Thirteenth Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF  
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS\*

(This report covers the week from  
11 May through 17 May 1973)

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The Key Points

- All the new combat infiltrators are headed for the northern MR 1 area, where good weather will prevail throughout the summer.
- As they normally do at this time of year, the North Vietnamese now are closing down the personnel infiltration system for the lower three-quarters of South Vietnam. They did the same thing in 1972 as the rainy season began in this area, even though their 1972 offensive was still at its height.
- A substantial volume of North Vietnamese logistic activity continued during the week along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. Heavy NVA logistic activity was observed in northern South Vietnam and in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the thirteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos

3. Evidence received during the reporting period generally showed very heavy levels of logistic activity in the northern South Vietnam/Laos border area and in the tri-border region of the southern Laos Panhandle. In both of these areas, there were detections of heavy NVA vehicle activity, and large quantities of supplies were observed either on the move or in storage. Traffic observed on the central corridor of the Laos Panhandle appeared to be somewhat below the level of the preceding week. Heavy NVA supply movements through the DMZ were also noted, and substantial shipments of ammunition were detected moving in the Vinh area of North Vietnam.

4. The following instances of Communist logistic activity inside South Vietnam were reported during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

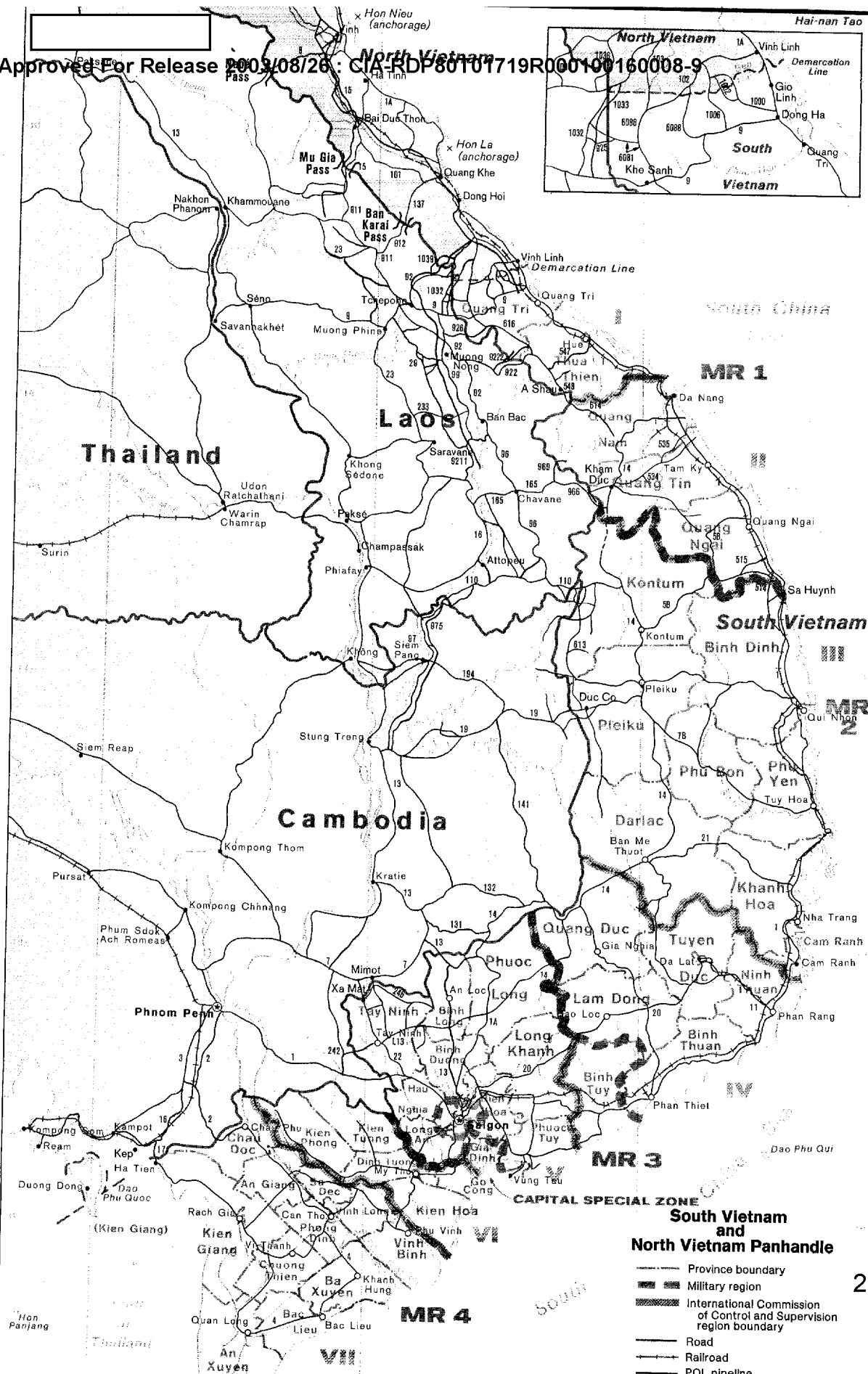
- a) On 3 May, several pieces of equipment associated with SA-2 missiles were observed at a truck-park along Route 9 west of Khe Sanh. Equipment detected in this possible missile support facility included a canister trailer and 6 possible guideline missile canisters.

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Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

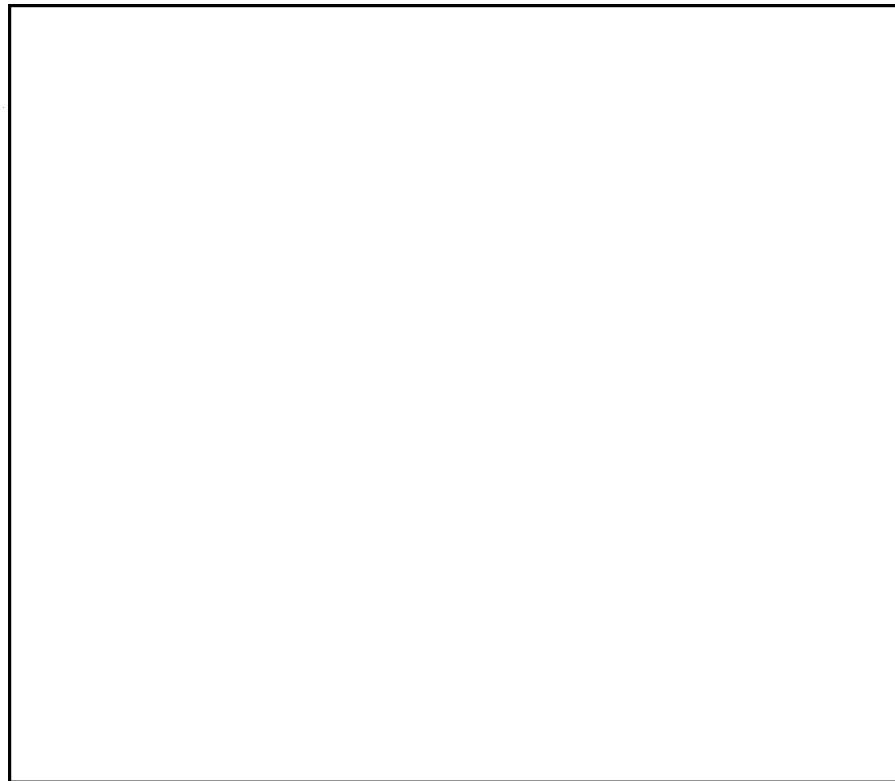
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- d) On 13 May, 41 cargo vehicles were detected on Route 548 north of the A Shau Valley (12 southbound, 2 northbound, 27 parked).
- e) On 13 May, 75 cargo trucks were parked along Route 608 north of Khe Sanh.
- f) On 15 May, 83 cargo trucks were operating along Route 9 in northern Quang Tri Province between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border.
- g) During the period 9 through 15 May, 69 southbound vehicles were detected moving on Route 1033 in the western DMZ.

5. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in northern Laos, southern Laos, and northeastern Cambodia were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of the activity in southern Laos

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and northeastern Cambodia probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.\*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Route 99</u>	<u>Route 9211</u>	<u>Route 958</u>
10 May	139 (112-N, 3-S)	161 (28-N, 94-S)	19 (3-N, 12-S)
11 May	43 (21-N, 22-S)	58 ( 4-N, 40-S)	18 (1-N, 10-S)
12 May	83 ( 6-N, 29-S)	167 ( 7-N, 122-S)	11 (0-N, 0-S)
13 May	29 ( 1-N, 18-S)	41 (11-N, 12-S)	61 (0-N, 10-S)
14 May	33 ( 6-N, 19-S)	NC**	40 (1-N, 31-S)
15 May	45 (21-N, 12-S)	29 (25-N, 2-S)	34 (8-N, 2-S)
16 May	48 (31-N, 8-S)	30 ( 5-N, 20-S)	NC**

\* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway, moving neither north nor south at the time of observation.

\*\* No coverage.

- b) Other significant vehicle activity included:

- 1) On 13 May, 36 cargo trucks were detected on Route 966 east of Chavane. 17 of these trucks were headed eastward toward the Laos/South Vietnam border.

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- 2) On 15 May, 32 loaded cargo trucks were observed traveling eastward toward GVN MR 2 on Route 96/110 in the tri-border area of Laos.

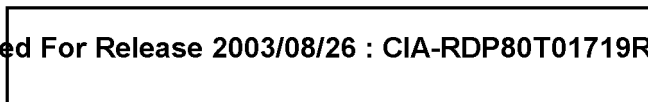


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- d) On 6 May, five T54/55 medium tanks were observed partially concealed along a major route about 10 miles west of Nong Pet in northern Laos. Two other tanks of undetermined type were also observed east of the above location. The date these tanks entered northern Laos could not be determined. Although other types of tanks have previously been observed in North Laos, this is the first time T54/55s have been detected in this area.



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- h) During the period 9 through 15 May, 76 southbound and 59 northbound vehicles were observed traveling through the Ban Karai Pass on Route 912.

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

7. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by

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the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 28 January and for the last week (11-17 May) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire		Last Week (11-17 May)	
	Level of Action		Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	910	3,021	26	92
MR 2	216	1,565	6	74
MR 3	337	2,106	9	91
MR 4	550	5,027	33	319
Totals	2,013	11,719	74 (84) <u>1/</u>	576 (598) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

8. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

9. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

#### MILITARY REGION 1

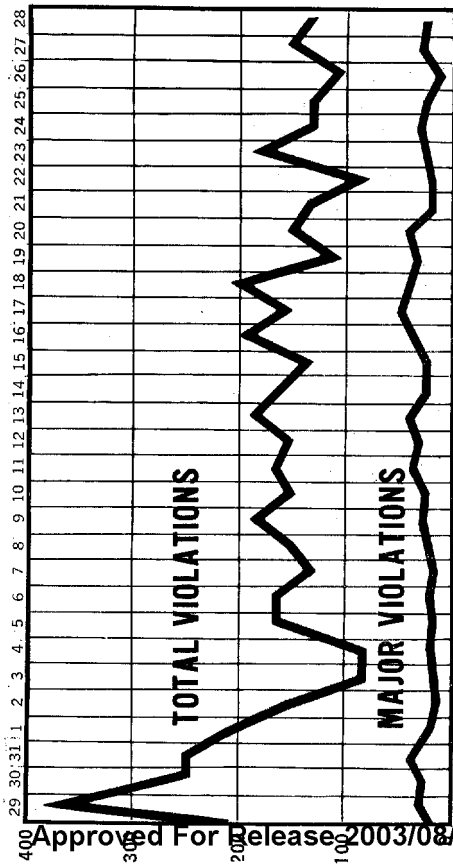
- a) On 12 and 14 May, 9 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, enemy forces conducted several ground attacks.



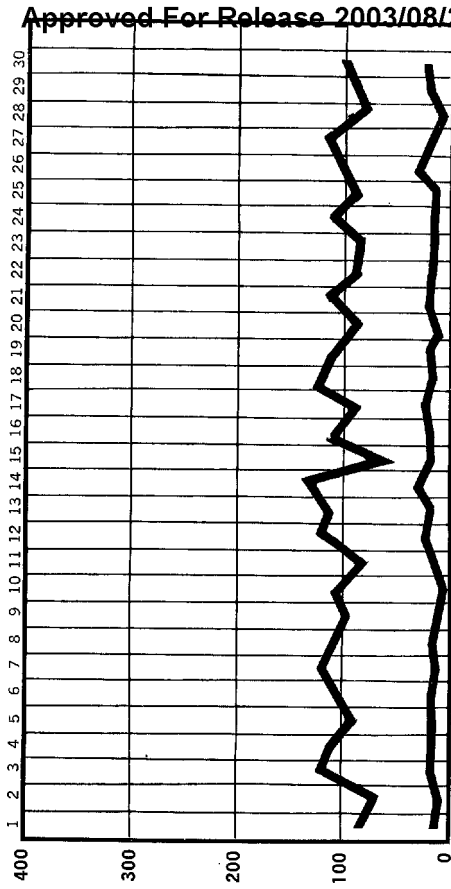
# CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

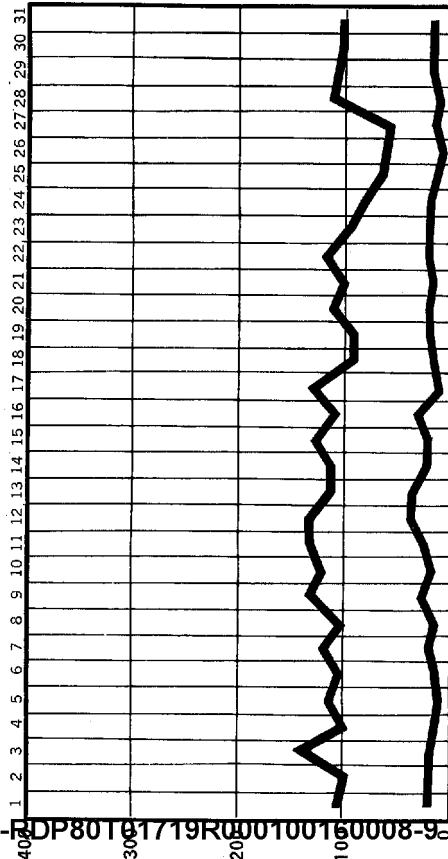
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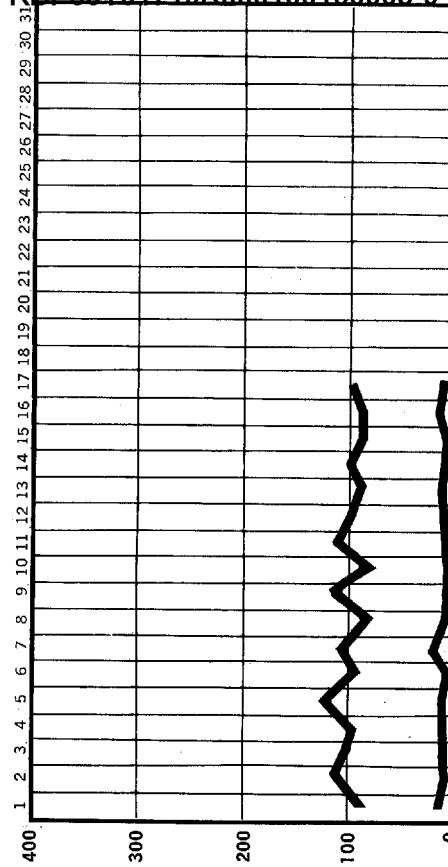
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- b) On 17 May, 8 miles west of Hue, friendly forces received an enemy attack-by-fire of 440 rounds.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a) On 15 May, 2 miles northeast of Kontum City, a friendly A-1H aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire.
- b) On 16 May, 6 miles northwest of Kontum City, friendly forces received an attack-by-fire of 200 mortar rounds.
- c) On 16 May, 8 miles south of Bong Son, enemy forces conducted a ground attack.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a) Nothing of significance to report.

MILITARY REGION 4

- a) On 16 May, 1 mile southwest of Vi Thanh, a friendly helicopter was shot down by enemy ground fire.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos During the Week From 11 Through 17 May

10. For the second consecutive week, there have been no reports of serious Communist-initiated incidents in Laos. As the scale of fighting continues to diminish, the frequency of front line meetings between members of opposing forces appears to be increasing. Although some of these meetings have been arranged by one side or the other for the purpose of disseminating propaganda or gaining possibly useful tactical information, many of the contacts have been spontaneous and have resulted simply in the exchanging of pleasantries and pledges of goodwill, and gifts of rice, cigarettes and clothing items.

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